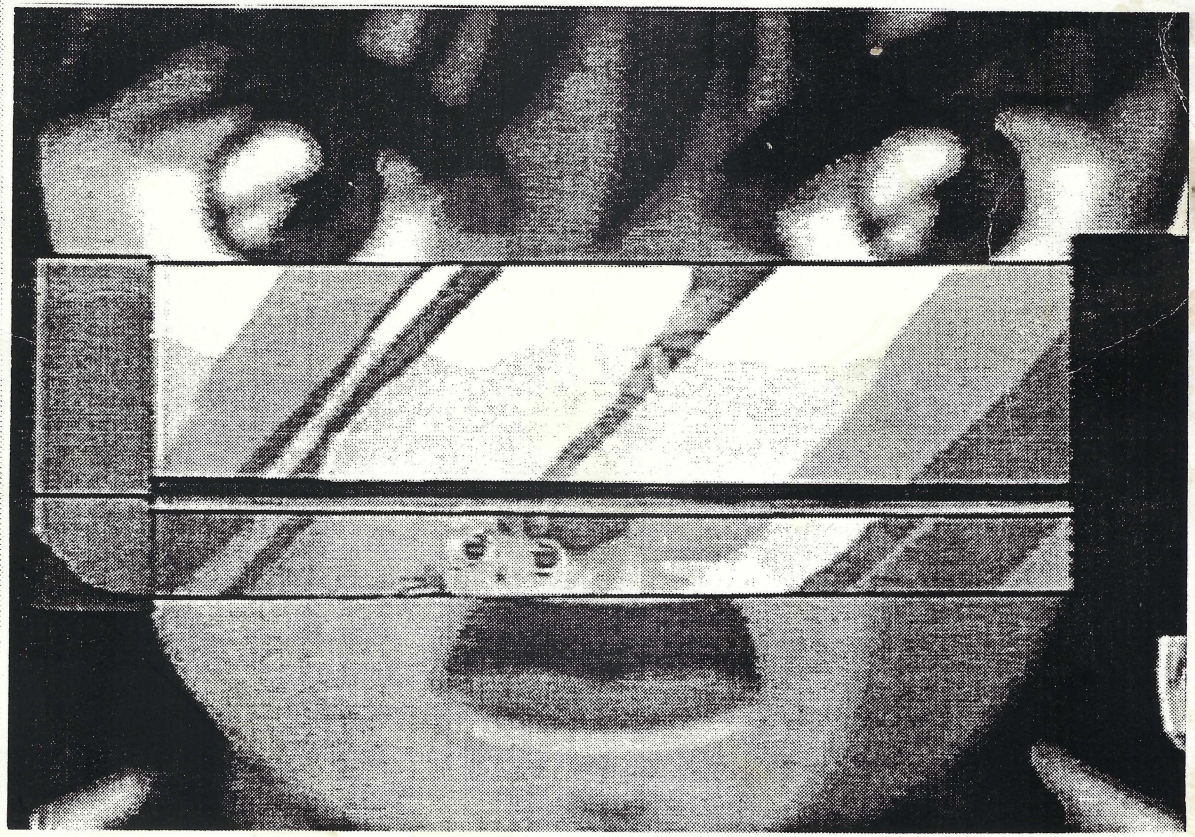
Final Stop Andromeda

September/October 1989 Issue 32

Just when you thought it was safe to enjoy summer vacation...



Time to go back to school!

The bi-monthly newsletter of the Boston Japanimation Society

Society Information

Final Stop Andromeda is the bi-monthly newsletter put out by the Boston Japanimation Society, a non-profit organization devoted to the enjoyment and preservation of Japanese Animation. Our current officers are:

Burton Choinski	*Media Coordinator/Treasurer*
Marianne Popa	*Social Coordinator/Public Relations*
Rev. Michael Horne	*Internal Coordinator/Secretary*

The annual BJS membership fee is 6 dollars for members in the U.S. and Canada and 12 dollars for members elsewhere in the world. Only U.S. currency will be accepted.

With your membership in the Boston Japanimation Society you get the following benefits:

- ✔ A one-year subscription to **Final Stop Andromeda**
- ✔ A membership card to impress your friends with
- ✔ Free Classifieds in the newsletter
- ✔ Discounts on merchandise at the following locations:
  - ✧ ***Outer Limits***, 457 Moody St., Waltham
  - ✧ ***Bop City Comics***, 80 Worcester Rd., Framingham (Rt 9, in the Marshalls mall)
  - ✧ ***Space Station Studios***, Waltham

If you received this issue in the mail, check your mailing label. If the words *"Last Issue"* appear under your membership expiration date, this really is your **LAST ISSUE!**

New membership and renewal dues should be sent in the form of a check or money order made payable to:

Paul Burgholzer, *48 Summit St., Halifax, MA 02338*

Be sure that the payment is made out to **Paul Burgholzer**, not to **BJS**. Any check or money order made out incorrectly will be returned to you.

Back issues from number 17 to the present issue are available for 1 dollar each. If you need them mailed to you there is an additional charge of 1 dollar for postage and handling.

Directions to BJS meetings at UMASS Boston

By Train — Take the **Red** line to JFK/UMASS station. Free shuttle buses there will take you directly to UMASS Boston. Shuttle buses run until 4:30pm, but other members may be able to provide transportation to the station.

By Car — Take Route 3 to exit 15 to get to Morrisey Blvd., on which UMASS is located, across the street from Channel 56 and the Boston Globe. It's right next to the JFK Library.

At UMASS — Walk or drive to the **Wheatly** building (No. 010). At present our meetings are held on the first floor, in room 041 (past elevators, through the double doors, straight ahead).

Contributers to this issue of Final Stop

Artwork by: Sean Bishop, Susan Trigger and Carol Hutchings.
Other Submissions: Eric Walker, Akira Nanimasu, Jacques Thibodeau and Kevin Leahy.

Schedule of Events

September 9th — *Meeting*

("Anime Schoolroom Month!")

Main Feature: The Samurai
Also Showing: Battle Royale High School

September 24th — *Roadtrip*

Monthly roadtrip starting at 2:00 pm. Be at the Riverside "T" station (Green line "D") by 1:30 pm.

October 14th — *Meeting*

Main Feature: Vampire Hunter D
Also Showing: Iczer-1

October 29th — *Roadtrip*

Monthly roadtrip starting at 2:00 pm. Be at the Riverside "T" station (Green line "D") by 1:30 pm.

All monthly meetings begin at 1:00 pm, on the dates noted above. See page 2 for details on how to get to UMASS and the video room.

If there is a movie or series episode or something you would like to see in a future meeting, please come to any officer with your request at the monthly meeting, or send it in by mail. All requests are subject to approval by the officers. Sorry, no X-rated films will be considered.

Submissions

Final Stop Andromeda needs submissions from its members! We can use any anime-related material, such as drawings, reviews, translated material, commentary, or anything else you think might be good. Remember, the quality and size of the newsletter is up to you, so submit often!

Well, it's time for the changing of the guard. Starting November, I will no longer be the Newsletter Editor/Media Coordinator. Paul Burgholzer has accepted the position and it is he who will be guiding y'all into the nineties. I have been editor for about three years and have strived to provide the highest quality newsletter. I hope that you will show him the same respect, support and consideration you all gave me. You may notice a slight change in the newsletter, since he will be using different equipment. But nonetheless, this is a tough job, and give him all the support you can!

Since I'm moving along, send all newsletter submissions to:

Paul Burgholzer
48 Summit St.
Halifax, MA 02338

but since I am still editor for these two months, you can still reach me at:
(508) 358-2970 *(call between 9pm and 11pm)*

Alright, you lazy lumps! I want you to send in lots of stuff to Paul so we can start him off right... or it's gonna be a LOOONG school year!

Andromedia

Aww, Geez, does this mean I have to get stuck in some robot naked? I hate that.

by Akira Nanimasu

Okay, okay. I made a grave mistake last time. In **Project A-ko**, the captain of the alien ship's name wasn't Harlot, it was Napolipolita...I think. Anyway, my apologies to Your Captainship. 'Saki's in the mail. Also...I made a certain comment which made me sound like Morton Downey Jr. I only made it to amuse, but as I looked at it afterwards, it was quite tasteless. From now on, I'll keep my prudish opinions on Taboo subjects to myself. Please don't hire a contract killer to assure my death. Thank you.

Well, it's that time again, when I get to review a video that almost everyone has seen before. This time it's **Fight!! Iczer-1**. I had planned on writing a synopsis of this story, in fact, I did, but it ran for ten pages, typed and double spaced. Way over newsletter length. 'Sides, most of you have a copy of the script (in English, 'course) that you got at the meetings. Darnit, there I go again, catering to that 15%! Well, the best I can do is tell you about the characters, and maybe they'll give you a good idea of what's going on, story-wise.

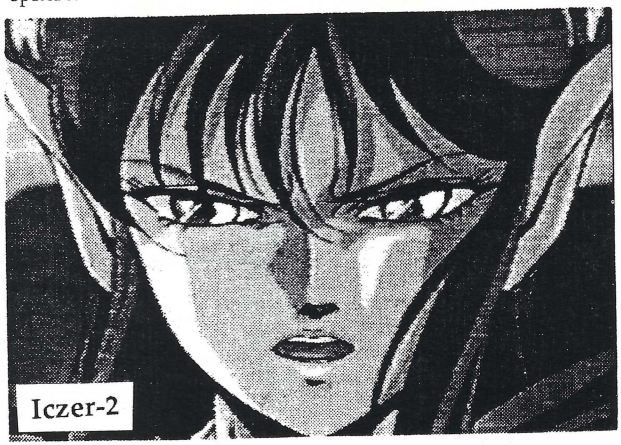
Yet again, I will begin with the main character of the story...Iczer-1. The script refers to her as a cyborg. I don't dispute that. After all, I can't fly or make laser beams come out of my fists. 'Just that she seems more organic then cybernetic. But then, later on, Iczer-1 herself says that she's a bio-engineered human being. Maybe she is is a cyborg in the way she has to link up with her mecha. She's got a giant head of blonde hair the likes of which I have never seen. She's got these chunks of doo on either side of her face which resemble humongous rotelli noodles. She's got red eyes, and a set of ears Mr. Spock would be envious of. I'm pretty sure the ear/eye thing are the traits of her race, the Cutowolf. Iczer-1 wears a pink spacesuit, with her underwear on the outside. No, just kidding, it's armor that helps her plug into her battle robot, Iczer-Robo. She actually cares about what happens to the Earth more then the Terran heroine does. Iczer-1 doesn't enjoy the killings, but feels it has to be done to save the Earth.

Nagisa Kano is an average High School Student, living a sedate and happy life, until the aliens come along and mess it up big time. Her friends get taken over by aliens and try to kill her until she gets saved by some punk rocker with Spock ears and red eyes. She's running for her life when all she used to worry about was the homework assignment she didn't do. She is the cute character, with bluish hair and matching eyes. Unfortunately, Nagisa Kano is Iczer-1's "partner", which means they must "synchronize". For every bio-genetically engineered Cutowolf warrior, there is a "partner". In order for the battle robots to be fully functional and powerful, the warrior must be connected to the robot and the "partner" must be joined as well.

This is no problem for Iczer-1, she's got little components in her bikini that the organic cables connect into. But Nagisa is submerged...naked into this weird liquid bubble (I have no idea how she breaths in that thing) where the cables come in contact with her skin. She works as kind of an energy cell. For Nagisa, this whole business happens way too fast. She goes though a lot of crying, screaming and denial, but once she truly understands what's going on, and realizes her duty to her people, she, Iczer-1, and Iczer-Robo are an unbeatable force.

Sir Violet (weird name for a woman, but I should talk) is the ruler of the Cutowolf people. As a mother to her daughters, she must find a new world for them to live on. She is not evil to begin with, but is warped and turned evil by circumstances beyond her control. After being warped, she undergoes a physical transformation. Her voice becomes low, like a man's, and the white from her eyes disappears. Once a green haired beauty in pretty clothes, she covers herself (even her hair) in black.

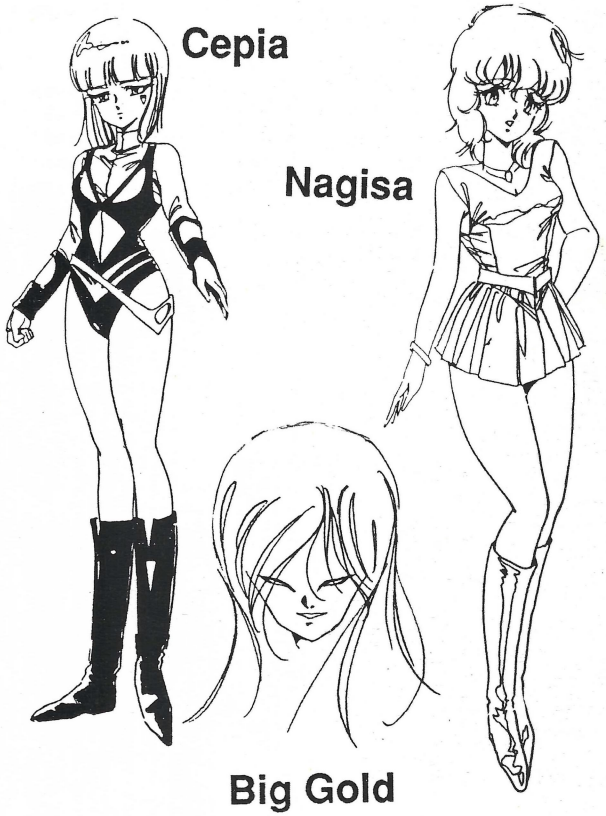
Big Gold is the circumstances beyond Sir Violet's control. Originally just a life force floating through space, Big Gold became reborn. How, I don't really know. I can't even claim to be an expert on these things. I just write about what I see and read in the script, and the video doesn't go into that. All I know is that Iczer-1 and Sir Violet are responsible. Big Gold corrupts Sir Violet and all of the Cutowolf people, except for Iczer-1, who somehow escaped. They become soldiers, and killers. They have monsters for foot soldiers. Big Gold, of course, is gold. Though at first the evil life force just looks like a deformed baby in a glowing sphere, it takes on the characteristics of the Cutowolf later on, and becomes a deformed female in a glowing sphere.



Big.Gold creates Iczer-2 to destroy Iczer-1. At least that's what Iczer-2 tells us...constantly. 'Pretty sad reason to live, so that you can kill your "sister". Iczer-2 is power hungry, obsessed, and almost as evil as Big Gold. She seems to be the typical villain who gloats and laughs when her enemy is down. Nope, no honorable adversaries here. No, wait. I remember one part of the story, when Iczer-2 leaves Iczer-1 alone when she could have killed her easily. Iczer-2 promised her partner, Cepia, a crack at Iczer-1 in the robot, Iczer-Sigma. Iczer-1 killed Cepia's lover in battle, and Cepia want's revenge. So, yeah, she's got some honor; you just can't notice it right away.

The foot soldiers of Big Gold and the Cutowolf are creatures called Vedems. They come in five varieties and all of them are ugly. Four of the varieties are slimy, puss covered, lizard-like, bug-eyed things. The fifth is being worn by what's his face up there in the picture. It's still gross, but junk doesn't come out of it's mouth to kill you. There's an eyeball in the way. The Vedems use people and inanimate objects like suits, and disguises to get to their objectives.

I joked to a couple of people earlier that the script came in handy, so I could hide my face from the messy parts. Actually, the messy parts aren't that messy and it's a fairly good balance of story, action, and yes, violence. Watching bug-eyed monsters popping out of human skins sets the mood. These guys are evil, and therefore they must die. If everything was peachy-keen (peachy-keen? Yecch.), and nobody got hurt, there would be no conflict and no story. It is by no means light entertainment, but **Fight!! Iczer-1** is still a very worthwhile movie to watch.



Styrene Madness

An introduction to Japanimation model kit collecting

by Jacques Thibodeau

Hi, my name is Jacques and this is my first article for the BJS, so have a heart (no death or bomb threats please!). I had the hardest time thinking of what to write about since I'm not familiar with some of the more recent anime (I've only seen **Gotchaman**, and the **Robotech** series, of which both I am a big fan). After much thought, I said to myself "Self, why don't you write about those Japanese S.F. model kits that you collect?" I thought it was a good idea, so I did and here goes.

While talking to a few members, I noticed that other people collect these kits, so hopefully I can be of some help. I will begin by saying that the companies that made (and are making) the largest amount of Japanese Animation kits are Bandai, Imai and Arii. There are numerous others, but these are the most well known in America. I have made kits from each of the above mentioned companies, and I am happy to report that the majority went together well. One caution, however; models from the mid-seventies and earlier tended to be aimed at young children, so many kits lacked detail and were very toy like, so be careful.

I'm now going to list some of the major kit series that have been put out by the various companies (including some of the smaller companies). Arii has an excellent line of Macross kits (I would say one of the best), but unfortunately they are becoming quite rare, so you may have to pay quite a bit of money for certain kits (fifty-seven dollars for a 1/72 scale M.A.C. II destroid, Ugh!). Aoshima makes a line of kits for both the **Acrobunch** series as well as the **Ideon** series. I haven't seen any of these kits up close, so I can't tell you how good or bad they are. Atlantic put out a series of figures based on the **Captain Harlock** series. I'm not sure if these were kits are pre-assembled, but I do know that they are hard to find. John Green Inc. had the Queen Emerelda set, but I'm not sure if they still do (I saw it in a march list).

Bandai has quite a few excellent kit lines including **Macross**, **Gundam**, **Xabungle**, **Lum**, and **Space Cruiser Yamato**. I feel sorry for you Gundam fans, due to the fact that there are well over two-hundred kits before the premier of **Char's Counterattack**, and since then there have been many new kits made, so if you want to collect all of the kits, I wish you good luck!

Imai has a huge line of excellent **Macross** kits. Some of these kits were re-issued by Revell in their Robotech changers line (The Robotech Defenders line was originally made by Arii and Takara and was based on the **Dougram** series). Imai also made **Mospeada** and **Orguss** kits, the former commanding some pretty high prices (fifty-plus bucks for Rook's ride armor!)

Nitto made kits for **Crusher Joe**, **Dougram**, **Diaclone**, and **Macross** (this being very small at 1/200th scale). I could go on and on about all the different kits and companies but this would surely draw forth shouts of protest saying"Get on with the article!", so let's do just that, shall we?

Since there is such a wide field of interest in the realm of Japanimation, I will give all of you gracious readers the means to find what you're looking for (if in fact it even exists). The following addresses are of people or companies who are extremely knowledgeable about Japanese models. I have dealt with all of these people successfully (all except for Oz Shop, as I am currently waiting for a response).

G.T.C is a mail order company that only sells S.F. models (mostly Japanese). The price for the latest catalog is three dollars.

G.T.C.
10185 Switzer
Overland Park, KS 66212

Horizon Hobbies is an importer of Japanese kits and toys. They don't have a retail catalog, (at least they didn't when I wanted one), but they can send a wholesale catalog to your favorite hobby or comic store on your request. Most comic stores already deal with Horizon, so they probably have a catalog. Why not ask next time you go in.

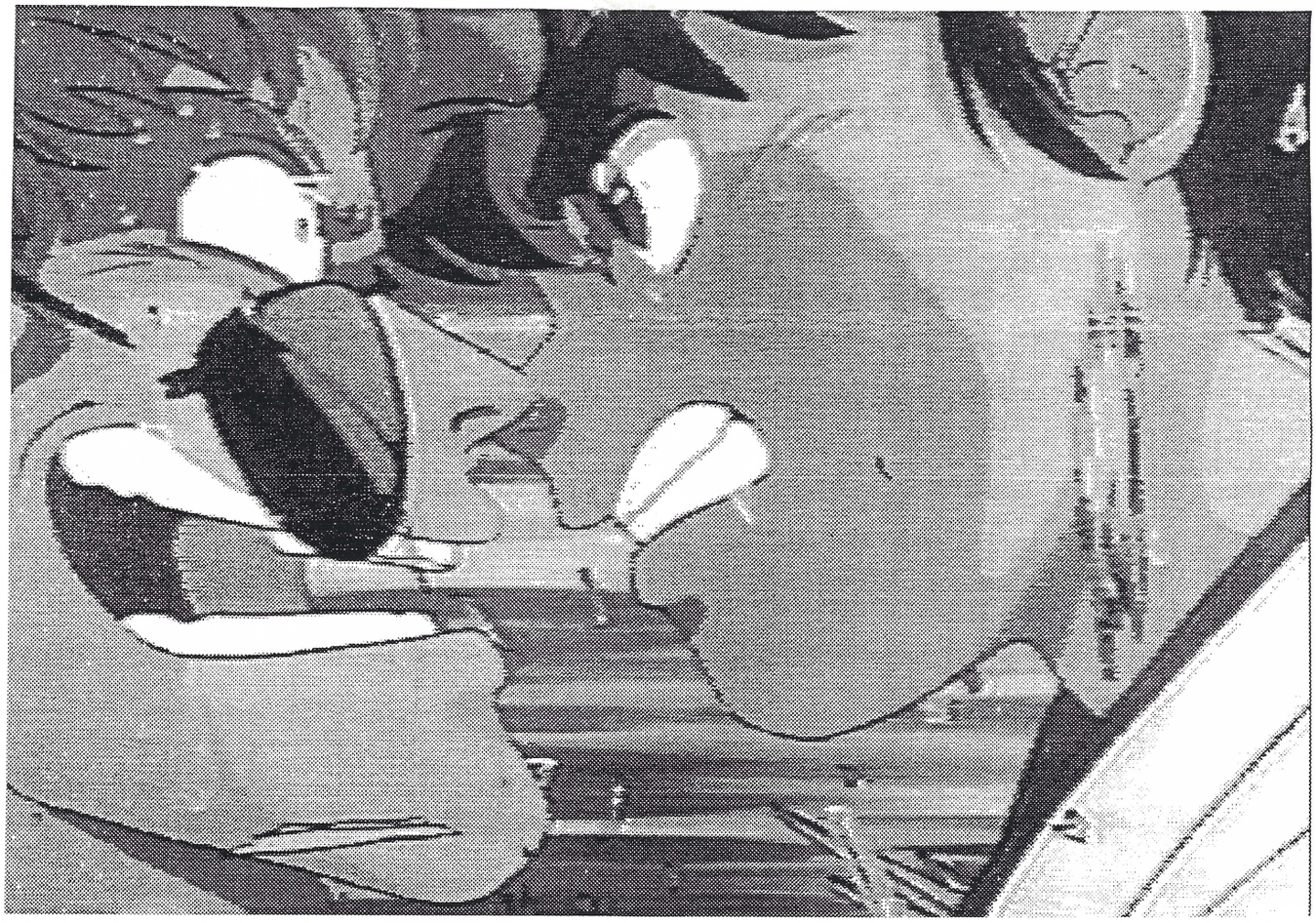
Horizon Hobbies and Toy Distribution
428 Boyd St.
Los Angeles, CA 90013

This next address belongs to a man who writes an article for a model collector's magazine, and his specialty is Japanese kits.

Frank Young
24902 Moulton Parkway
Laguna Hills, CA 92653

John Green Inc. is another S.F. kit mail order company.

John F. Green Inc.
1821 W. Jacaranda Pl.
Fullerton, CA 92633



September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Labor Day	5	6	7	8	9 BJS Meeting
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 BJS Roadtrip	25	26	27	28	29	30 Rosh Hashanah

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October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Yom Kippur Columbus day	10	11	12	13	14 BJS Meeting
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 United Nations Day	25	26	27	28
29 BJS Roadtrip	30	31 Halloween				

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Oz Shop is a Japanese distributor that supposedly will ship kits over here. Include two international reply coupons when writing them.

Oz Shop
1722-1 Gosho
Ichihara-shi; Chiba 290
Japan

Bandai has the most diversified selection of kits, so here's their address in America.

Bandai Corporation of America
1014 E. Burgrove
Carson, CA 90746

In closing, I would like to say that even though most of you have seen a lot of the kits I have mentioned, there are still so many kits that are hard to find, and that are rarely seen. With that in mind, if there is something that you would love to have in model form, do some digging -- you might just find what you're looking for!

For all you dedicated "Dirty Pair" fans -- the Kei and Yuri figures are out. If you can't get them where you are, I can at least get you the Kei figure. These figures are excellent, but are for the incredibly dedicated fan only, $94.00 each! Need I say more?)

Editor's Note -- Jacques and many of you may be unaware that both Outer Limits and Bop City have a large variety of Anime models to choose from. You also get your 10% discount toward them. In addition, Mr. Big Toyland (about 1 block down Moody St.) has a good selection of older models (especially those from the Yamato series).

Saint Seiya first season closing credits

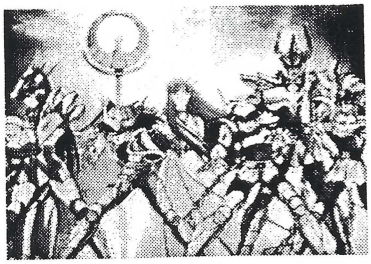
by Kevin Leahy

Eien Blue

Kirameku seiza ga omae o yonderu
Sore wa erabareta senshi no akashi
Girisha shinwa no yoo-ni
Mabushi kurosu matotte
Aa ashita no sora wa blue
Donna yume mo shinjireba kanau yo
Aa kokoro-ni-shimeru blue
Eien no kagayaki
Kitsuki tsukareta yoru ni-wa aitai
Ai no ude no naka nemureru yoo-ni
Tsurai tatakai dake ga
Subete to omoitakunai
Aa miageru sora wa blue
Atsui nozomi suteru na totta
Aa wasure wa shinai blue
Eien no kagayaki

Forever Blue

The glittering constellation calls to you
The one that has been chosen -- soldier of vindication
Like in Greek mythology
Wearing dazzling cloth
Oh, tomorrow's blue skies
What other dream can rival it if you have faith
Oh, take heed of the blue
The splendor of eternity
Tired by wounds you want to meet the night
It seems to rest at the center of love's ability
There is only cruel combat
And generally not thinking
Oh, admire the blue sky
Sworn to discard heated desire
Oh, don't forget the blue
The splendor of eternity



Member Art

Commentary

It's time to shoot off our mouths

by Eric Walker

On June 16th, the Boston Japanimation Society descended on the Somerville Theater to view, for the first time on the big screen, the translated english version of **Laputa**. To put it mildly, we enjoyed the film; it's always better to hear voices from the screen, instead of some joker standing in the dark and semi-narrating the story as it goes along. (No offense to anyone who has taken this thankless job). **Laputa** was a wonderful children's story in the Disney tradition, which is saying a lot considering how this film came from Japan. (No, really?) If this thing were mass-marketed, it could make a fortune.

However, one thing that I did not enjoy was the fact that, aside from us, the theater was practically empty. **Laputa** would have been a perfect show for any parent to take their kids to, but very few of them did. Why? Because the Somerville Theater cannot afford widespread advertising, the way those idiots who animated "Babar" (they're the same people responsible for the Care Bears!) can. The result of all this? A marvelous movie like **Laputa** is not able to bail the Somerville Theater out of its financial crisis, while "Babar" lines the pockets of its producers (I pity the actual animators who work for these guys) with still more dough. Furthermore, "Babar" is yet more proof to the Great Unwashed that cartoons are nothing more then silly kids' stuff.

If it's kids' stuff that the people want, then they should have gone to see **The Brave Little Toaster**, a wonderful tale that will be released on video and the Disney Channel this fall. **Toaster's** animators are 90% Japanese (I couldn't pronounce half of the names in the ending credits), and they have strong ties to Disney as well. But again, the theater was almost empty. Those people have no inkling of what they missed. **The Brave Little Toaster** is one of the best animated films of the decade.

The list seems to go on and on. Last year, the Coolidge Corner Theater screened the 23rd annual Tournee of Animation, which was frequented by many anime buffs and fans - but fans alone could not make it into a hit. What we need is some way to let people know that animation is worthy of adults as well as kids. The audience for animation is there -- look at the mega-success of the much-hyped (and well-deserving of it) **Who Framed Roger Rabbit**. If these same people were to see films like **Tin Toy** or **The Man Who Planted Trees**, then they would know what they were missing. (**The Man Who Planted Trees** is shown on the series "Long Ago and Far Away," but for time reasons parts of it have been edited out. It is still worth watching.)

But how are the great masses ever going to find out what <u>really</u> exists in the field of animation? They must be told. And who can tell them? We can. We have got to spread the word.

But we have got to do it quickly. The Coolidge Corner Theater is in danger of being shut down for good -- the deadline is September 15th -- and by the time you read this it may already have come and gone. Which is a shame. During the weeks of August 11th to September 1st, the theater has screened the Second Animation Celebration, a collection of brand-new short films brought together by the Tournee of Animation. They have had lectures and guest speakers and short films that have never been seen before -- and, unfortunately, will probably never be seen at all by the masses. We know that these films are good, but we've got to let others know that as well.

Now, I'm not saying that the few of us can raise the half-million dollars necessary to save the Coolidge Corner Theater, or the Somerville Theater; hell, I know people who would have trouble affording the yearly BJS fee. I also know that asking people for money will make them turn the page right now -- so I'm not going to do that. What I <u>would</u> like to do is request a small favor from all of you: go and see these films. Take a friend or two along with you. That's all you have to do. If your friends like the films, then they might tell their friends about these shows. If we can get a few people to go and see these things, when they never would have gone on their own, we would have scored a small victory for anime fans everywhere -- and maybe we would even gain a few converts to our cause.

Am I sounding a bit too sappy here? If so, then forgive me. But the time has come for animation to move into the spotlight, to make it into something more then it is right now: an underground art form. I want <u>more</u> then underground art. I'm tired of the Smurfs. I'm sick of C.O.P.S. Why can't we see shows like **Bubblegum Crisis** or **Dirty Pair** on TV? Fat chance, I know, because they would be edited and cut beyond recognition. Not necessarily -- if a lot of people were to suddenly ask for these shows, then the local networks would get them! But we can't do it alone. The only way to do so is to spread the faith.

Thus ends this preachy soapbox session. Last Word: Upcoming events include **Twilight of the Cockroaches**, a "Live action animated epic half an inch off the floor," at the Somerville Theater, by Hiroaki Yoshida, beginning September 22nd. Also in Somerville on October 13th is Festival of Animation '90.

Anime News

Anime "in-jokes" on Star Trek

I'm sure most of you have heard about the "Star Trek" quick-shots in various **Dirty Pair** episodes. Well, according to Richard Sternback, head of the crew that puts the sets of **Star Trek: The Next Generation** together, they are getting even -- Dirty Pair and other anime quickies are showing up in STTNG! He admits that there are a lot of Anime fans in the set design team (himself included) Some of their more obvious exploits:

- In one episode Riker and his father are fighting in the gymnasium. Along the wall are various banners with strange writing on them. Other strange writing is on the floor as well. Well, the writing is Japanese Kana and the various writings say: "Urusei Yatsura", "Kei", "Yuri", "Lum" and "Ataru".

- In one episode the Enterprise crew had to deal with a race of aliens known as "the Nausicaans". It seems there is a list that the writers can refer to for alien names and someone slipped this one in.

- Watch that holodeck! In one episode, a major character shows someone how to operate the Holodeck. One of his warnings was about the "Tomobiki Simulation" setting, an exciting but slightly dangerous mode where insulated clothing is suggested.

Now, I do not know the actual episode titles these events have taken place in, but Rick notes that you should keep watching. Maybe one day Wesley will decide to try the Tomobiki Simulation! ("Wesley no Baka!" :)

Urusei Yatsura Mailing List

For those of you with computer accounts and a yen (ugh!) for Urusei Yatsura, there is an UY mailing list. Simply send a message stating that you would like to be added to the mailing list to the following electronic mail (internet) address:

URUSEI_YATSURA_REQUEST@PANDA.PANDA.COM

Classifieds

Notice

There will be a small art exhibit of Animation Art Works during the September meeting at UMASS. The artworks will also be available for sale. Prices of these arts vary from 5 to 10 dollars each. All art is professionally matted with clear acetate so they will look like animation cels. All pieces are 11" by 14". If you want more info, please call:

Jimmy Luu
(617) 661-4103 (call after 7:30pm weekdays)

Notice

Some of you may have noticed that my digitizer is getting better at doing images from tape. Well, I am hereby offering an "Image Service" to the general membership. For a small fee I will digitize and print out any pictures you so wish. Sizes may be from postage stamp size to full page. Multiple page images are also possible, but at potentially increased cost.

To do this simply send me a tape with a copy of the scene you wish (copy it with about 1 minute before and after the actual scene) and note as exactly which scene it is. Please, no more then 10 clips per person at a time. The cost of this service is quite low -- if one of the clips catches my eye and I don't have it; a copy of that feature will suffice (I will supply the tape). If nothing interests me (or if I have them all), the cost is 50 cents per image. You must pay for all shipping of tapes (I will return your clip tape).

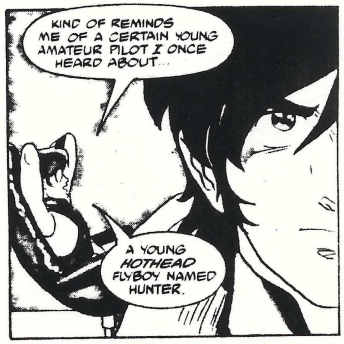
Now, in order for me to get good images, I need the CLEANEST copy of what you have. Laser copies work the best, and the tape itself must be of the highest quality. The equipment is very touchy with bad video signals, so really old copies (or just plain bad tapes) will not come out well. Regardless of tape quality. Cost is the same.

If you have questions, call me at:

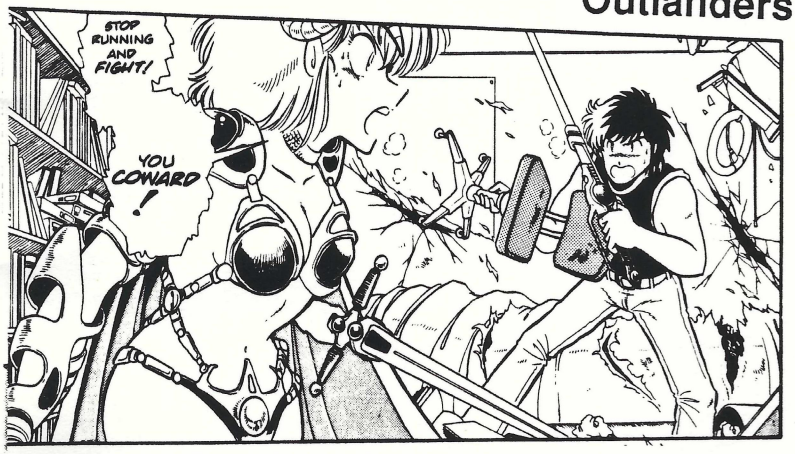
Burton Choinski
(508) 358-2970 (call after 8:00pm)

Appleseed

Here are some of the English translated manga available. See anything you like?



Outlanders



Lum

Robotech Sentinals

Fist of the Northstar

BAD ANIME PUN # 875: THE NERDY PAIR

(LOVELY STUDENTS)

FIRST CLASS